



File Code: 2720-1
Temporary Permit Holder
February 19, 2009

Temporary Permit Holder

Dear Sir or Madam,

On October 17, 2008 national directives for outfitting and guiding on National Forest System lands were revised. To view the new outfitting and guiding directives and response to public comments in the *Federal Register*, please go to our national website at:

http://www.fs.fed.us/specialuses/special_outfitting.shtml

As part of the new directives changes will be implemented for temporary special use permit holders. Since you are a current or previous holder of a temporary special use permit for outfitting and guiding, you will need to decide on which of the options summarized below best suits your operation. Your choices will be to; participate in temporary use, or whether to request reclassification of your temporary use as transitional priority use.

Temporary Use

Under the revised directives, the concept of temporary use has changed. Temporary use permits will no longer be used for ongoing long-term business operations, or for earning eligibility for priority use. Rather, temporary use is intended for short-term, non-recurring use. After September 2009, temporary use will be limited to 200 service days in a 180 day period. Additionally, an individual or entity can only obtain two permits per year per use area. Depending on demand, Forest Service offices may process applications for temporary use on a first-come first-served basis, or may establish a pool of use with an open season for applications and distribution of temporary use by lottery. Although temporary use may not be renewed, temporary service days would be available for reallocation the following year. Temporary use permits will be subject to a new flat fee schedule based on the number of service days allocated.

The new outfitter and guide policy allows Forests time to determine whether a temporary pool is needed and to establish them temporary pools during the 2009 season. During this time, the Forest Service will continue to authorize temporary use for periods up to one year and as necessary, in amounts that exceed 200 service days.

Transitional Priority Use

If you hold temporary use and intend to operate as an ongoing business, you will need to apply for a priority use permit. Under the revised directives, current holders of temporary use may be eligible for reclassification as transitional priority use when;

- Their temporary use under the prior directive was actively recurring each year, and
- Performance was satisfactory, and
- A written request for reclassification is submitted by a previous (2008) or current holders of temporary use to the Forest Service by September 17, 2009.



Before a priority use permit can be issued, the Forest Service may need to conduct a Needs Assessment, a Resource Capacity Analysis and/or an environmental analysis. The Forest Service views the conversion of backlogged temporary use to priority use as a program expense. Therefore the agency will treat the preparation of Needs Assessments and Resource Capacity Analysis as a programmatic cost covered by the agency. However, appropriate environmental analysis that must be completed prior to conversion of temporary use to priority use, and the costs associated with that Environmental Analysis are subject to cost recovery. Under cost recovery the applicant is responsible for the environmental analysis costs.

You may take up to five years from the date of the request for conversion to a transitional priority use permit to pay for the work necessary to complete the application requirements. However, the Forest Service will schedule work to keep pace with payments. In some cases, it may be more advantageous to have applications evaluated as a group with participants agreeing on a schedule. During this transitional period you may receive a special use permit under a one year "transitional priority use" classification which will be issued annually for up to 5 years.

Temporary Permit Holder Response

The Forest will be tracking your written response regarding reclassification from the previous temporary permits. In your response please submit the following information;

1. Name of Permit Holder
2. Temporary Permit Holder Number
3. Issuance and expiration date of the previous temporary permit
4. Number of years that you have been authorized this type of a temporary permit
5. For temporary use pool applicants; the general area, outfitter and guide uses and service days you would like to be considered for a temporary use pool
6. Whether you want to; (a) apply for a transition priority use permit; (b) be considered for any future temporary use pools or; (c) removed from any consideration for future temporary use pools or transition priority use permit based on a previous one-time permit need.

Implementation

The Forest Service is transitioning from the prior directives to the revised directives in fiscal year 2009. The agency plans to conduct training for field staff between January and April of 2009. After the training, Forests will be better prepared to answer questions about where and when they plan to implement temporary use pools under the new directives.

If you have any questions, please contact Dan Ermovick, Forest Recreation Program Manager, at 541-523-1250.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven A. Ellis
STEVEN A. ELLIS
Forest Supervisor